

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 are amended. Claims 17-19 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Support for the amendments to the claims is provided in the specification, for example, on page 32, lines 14-23. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The June 21, 2007 Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 based on a statutory double patenting rejection over U.S. Application No. 10/612,261; and rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 based on a statutory double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,975,331 B2. On June 19, 2007, prior to the Office Action mail date, U.S. Application No. 10/612,261 issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,233,695 B2. The rejections of cancelled claims 17-19 are moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-16.

The subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 9 is not coextensive in scope with the corresponding independent claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,975,331B2 or 7,233,695. For at least this reason, the rejections of independent claims 1 and 9, as well as claims 2-8 and 10-16 which depend from claim 1 or claim 9, should be withdrawn.

Applicants additionally submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RMJ/hms

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Terminal Disclaimer

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